

placing of these children was not uniform between the groups, and on the whole those of normal parentage had rather more favourable foster-homes; they received a rather better education, more affection from their foster-parents, and were more frequently adopted. No fewer than 40 per cent of the homes were adjudged unsatisfactory as an emotional background for the growing child. Differences, not significant statistically, were found between the adjustments of the children of normal and abnormal parentage. In the alcoholic group five of the boys got into trouble with forgery, stealing and drinking, and five of the girls with sex delinquencies. In the normal group only two boys were in trouble with drinking and truancy. Few significant differences in adult adjustment were found; the children of normal parentage had more and wider interests, belonged to more community organizations, and had a larger number of friends. Other differences, for instance in occupational level, marital adjustment, alcoholism, Minnesota scale ratings, etc., showed differences which were not significant, although they tended to be in favour of the children of normal parentage. A significant association was found between

over-all adjustment of the child and the degree of affection shown by the foster-parents. The children of the normal group were much better satisfied with their upbringing and were more affectionately disposed to their foster-parents than the others.

The results of the investigation are, therefore, rather inconclusive and do not add much to a discussion of the relative importance of heredity and environment in social adjustment. The authors' main conclusion, that affectionate parents and residence in a home which is a respected part of the community are of value to the child, may be allowed to pass without comment. The present study is unsatisfactory in that numbers are so small, systematic environmental differences between the groups are not excluded, and the hereditary factors involved are of an unspecific type. The investigators have done their work with care and thoroughness, and such faults as there are are in the ground plan of the investigation. The principal lesson to be learnt is that studies of foster-children, which look so promising on paper, run into very great difficulties peculiar to themselves.

ELIOT SLATER.

OTHER NOTICES

Cohen, John. *Human Nature, War and Society.* London, 1946. Watts. Pp. 193. Price 2s. 6d.

THIS is a very comforting book. We have been told so often that wars cannot cease because they express human nature, and human nature cannot be changed. And now Dr. Cohen shows us, convincingly, that war has nothing to do with human nature—which can be changed anyway. War is merely a social phenomenon, "nothing but a traditional mode of behaviour," a thing, therefore, which could be eliminated (like slums) if only we would put our minds to it. Dr. Cohen not only believes (with Sir Arthur Keith) that modern war is dysgenic, but he never fails to take hereditary factors into consideration. As he so cogently states: "There is no need to underrate the genetic factors which form the foundations of our

traits and conduct." Thus, throughout his closely reasoned argument and excellently marshalled facts hereditary influences are always given due weight.

Particularly valuable are his points about personal aggressiveness. Not only can it be turned to useful purposes but it is never now a cause of war, and even "collective aggression is cultural and not biological." The crux of the matter is very well put on p. 87: "Heredity certainly influences the development of the human organism, but this influence should not be exaggerated at the expense of the influence of the social environment." And again: "It is quite within the competence of human beings to modify these patterns of behaviour."

But this book should be read in its entirety.

by all who hope for human survival. It is concise, stimulating, reasonable and eminently readable—and, moreover, it is well grounded on sound eugenic principles.

U. G. D.

Dale, Alan. *An Introduction to Social Biology.* London, 1946. Heinemann. Pp. vii + 396. Price 15s.

THE Editor said to me, "You are sixteen and have just passed your School Certificate. I think that this book was meant for you. Read it and tell me, in about 500 words, what you think of it." As I sometimes do as the Editor asks, I read the book and here is my considered opinion of its merits.

The author sets out to provide, for the post-School Certificate student and for the general reader, a knowledge of those parts of biology which concern him as a member of society. There are many people who know little and are eager to learn more about this subject, and everyone should be familiar with some of its aspects. In attempting to satisfy these needs in one readable volume Mr. Dale is a pioneer, and no doubt has had to contend with new and difficult problems. In spite of this he has written a remarkably fine book, all the finer when one considers the large amount of previously unturned ground covered therein. He tackles his difficulties skilfully and his style is to the point. His outlook is broad and he does not hesitate to introduce relevant information that is of cultural rather than practical importance. He compares man's habits and structural adaptations to environment with those of other vertebrates, and discusses man's past evolutionary and present social relationships with these creatures.

I learnt a great deal from this well-illustrated book and in the process enjoyed myself very much. It is a pleasure that I hope many other people will share. I hope it will not appear presumptuous to add that Mr. Dale sometimes states as well-founded facts things which are not generally accepted as such. His account of the method by which the spores of the mould *Mucor* are distributed is a case in point (p. 98). That I could not follow one or two of the arguments was possibly due to my failing to see the obvious rather than to the author's lack of clarity, but the fact seems worth mentioning all the same.

On the inside front cover one reads that the majority of the illustrations in this book are original; yet by a suitable application of elementary mathematical principles (i.e. by addition and subtraction) it may easily be ascertained that a slightly greater number have been published elsewhere than have been prepared especially for this book. I suppose this is a private matter between the author and his publisher, and it really isn't for an outsider to interfere. Among the original illustrations are some excellent photomicrographs,

and the author has prepared several useful and informative tables.

I must make it clear that any unfavourable comments in this review concern matters of detail, which do not affect the high standard of the great mass of the material. I do, however, hope that the author will be able to modify some passages, and also that the index, which I found inadequate, will be enlarged and supplemented with cross references when a second edition is prepared.

J. G. H. NEWFIELD.

Dillon, Michael. *Self. A study in ethics and endocrinology.* London, 1946. Heinemann. Pp. 128. Price 6s.

THE first part of this book is a popular exposition of current knowledge on endocrine secretions and heredity with special reference to homosexuality. The author rightly challenges the tendency towards a psycho-analytic monopoly in the treatment of homosexual problems. He draws attention to the reciprocal relation between psychological and somatic causation in homosexual phenomena and suggests (though not very clearly) the possibilities of hormone treatment.

In the second part the author relates his material to a philosophical, ethical, and even religious background. As the bibliography is confined solely to Part I, it is perhaps not unfair to conclude that Mr. Dillon is less at home here. The chapter on free will is even more unsatisfactory and exasperating than most approaches to this thorny subject. Only when we throw ourselves wholeheartedly into an action with so unified a will that we could not have done otherwise are we free. If we act at the dictate of "some lower part of ourselves" there is no freedom of action. Such is the author's "solution." But the whole problem is whether the experience of moral struggle in the latter case is real or illusory. If illusory, it follows that the preoccupation of the higher religions and of ethics itself is a phantom. On the last page the author leaves the serenity of the academy for the breezy atmosphere of the mission hall and we hear about the national "turning to God," etc.

ALEC CRAIG.

Griffith, Edward F. *Modern Marriage.* London, 1946. Methuen. Pp. x + 303. Price 7s. 6d. 19th edition.

THE title of this book might give the erroneous impression that the author regards marriage as simply a physical relationship, for it is almost entirely concerned with sexual details including some only remotely connected with marriage. It is in fact a book on sex rather than marriage, as is shown by its disregard of the obviously pressing question of divorce. Neither is the word "modern" particularly appropriate. This is a reprint of a book originally published in 1935

and reviewed in these columns, and though this edition has been re-written and brought up to date to include the latest medical knowledge, most of the writer's opinions have been generally accepted for the last quarter-century by all intelligent people. In a few respects he is really out of date, as in the statement that the trend of the age is towards quality rather than quantity and in the assumption of a prosperous class independent of state assistance.

In dealing with the birth control controversy he is less than fair to the other side; he ignores irrational, illogical but deep-seated feelings on the subject and like many medical men he does not realize how strongly many people dislike consulting doctors, especially when they are feeling in good health. It is improbable that many readers will act literally on his advice entailing visits to the doctor at every point. But when all these criticisms are made, this book serves very well the purpose for which it is intended, to set out in an intelligible form all the information the ordinary person needs to possess on sexual matters and it is admirably printed and produced. It is likely to continue to sell in large numbers.

CECIL BINNEY.

Majumdar, D. N. (Editor). *Folk Culture Series: Snowballs of Garhwal.* Lucknow, 1946. Universal Publishers Ltd. Pp. xiv + 87. Price Rs. 3.12.

In his introductory chapter the editor writes of "The Malaise of Culture" and deplores the impact of European and quasi-European cultures on tribal peoples; in particular he cites the demoralizing effect of the war on eastern frontier villages, where high wages have shifted tribal authority from the hereditary headman to those with newly acquired wealth, and the young people are no longer influenced by the tribal elders. Pre-marital licence in the past was dealt with by the marriage of the

girl within the tribe—"But to-day children are being born in hospitals, cared for by philanthropic agencies, and the girls need not learn to behave. The tribal traditions, customs and practices, festivals and ceremonies all have lost their urge and sanctity."

It is with these traditions that the rest of the book deals. There are chapters on Indian folklore and marriage songs and transcriptions of the folk songs of Garhwal. The line-cut illustrations are attractive. The book is sponsored by the Ethnographic and Folkculture Society of Lucknow.

K. HODSON.

Williams, I. Guilfoyle. *The Psychology of Childhood to Maturity.* London, 1946. Wm. Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. Pp. 324. Price 8s. 6d.

THE sub-title of this book is "An Introduction to Psychology and a Guide to Happiness and Mental Health throughout Life." The book contains an outline of an applied dynamic psychology, written for parents, teachers and social workers. Chapters on character development, education, adolescence, on the mature mind, sex differences, and love and marriage, serve their purpose well, though long quotations from Freud, Jung, Adler and others are apt to be irritating, as they interrupt too often the otherwise fluent and clear exposition. Chapters on psychotherapy, or psychological research, and on the problems of the conscious and unconscious mind ("it is a great advantage to have the full resources of the unconscious mind made available for guidance in life") raise complicated issues; information given on such subjects in a semi-popular book may, or may not, promote happiness and mental health.

The problems of inheritance are dealt with in a few lines in the introduction.

E. GUTTMANN.

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